

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5632

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TAGS: PFOR, UR, JA

SUBJECT: SOVIET-JAPANESE RELATIONS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: MOSCOW 4249

1. SUMMARY. IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS, JAPANESE EMBASSY COUNSELOR AKIHO PROVIDED A RUNDOWN ON THE CURRENT STATE OF SOVIET-JAPANESE RELATIONS FROM TOKYO'S PERSPECTIVE. MOST OF AKIHO'S COMMENTS REPEATED KNOWN VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT, BUT THERE WERE SOME ADDITIONAL DETAILS, INCLUDING HIS NEGATIVE COMMENTS ON THE JAPANESE "CONTACT" ON THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, KOVALENKO (REFTEL). AKIHO SAID THAT MOSCOW'S POLICY TOWARD JAPAN IS STILL RUN BY "COLD WARRIORS" OF WHOM KOVALENKO IS ONE EXAMPLE. END

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SUMMARY.

2. AKIHO BEGAN THE CONVERSATION WITH A DIGRESSION ON THE SINO-JAPANESE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY WHICH HE EXPECTED TO BE CONCLUDED BEFORE THE PRESENT SESSION OF THE DIET WINDS UP IN MAY. THE QUESTION OF THE STATUS OF TAIWAN WOULD BE RESOLVED IN THE PREAMBLE, HE SAID, WHICH LEFT THE "HEGEMONY" CLAUSE AS THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM. THE SOVIETS WERE SEEKING TO DISSUADE JAPAN ON THE TREATY: THEY WERE OPPOSED TO PACT IN ANY FORM, BUT SEEMED TO REALIZE THAT THEY COULD NOT PREVENT IT; THEY HAD PROPOSED AN ALTERNATIVE NON-TERRITORIAL SOVIET-JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP TREATY TO BALANCE TOKYO'S ACCORD WITH PEKING; AND THEY OPPOSED ANY REFERENCE TO "HEGEMONY" IN THE SINO-JAPANESE TREATY. CONCERNING THE ALTERNATIVE AGREEMENT, AKIHO SAID THAT THE SOVIETS SEEMED ESPECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT JAPAN'S MILITARY POTENTIAL. ACCORDINGLY, GROMYKO HAD SUGGESTED DURING FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA'S VISIT IN JANUARY THAT THE TWO SIDES WORK UP A DOCUMENT UNDER WHICH EACH WOULD AGREE NOT TO USE MILITARY MEANS TO SETTLE PROBLEMS, NOT TO CONDUCT ANY THREATENING ACTIVITIES ON ITS OWN TERRITORY TOWARDS THE OTHER AND NOT TO ACT IN A WAY WHICH MIGHT ENCOURAGE ANY THIRD COUNTRY FROM ENGAGING IN AGGRESSION. THE SOVIETS, SAID AKIHO, HAD ALSO COMMENTED ON THE U.S.-JAPANESE SECURITY TREATY SPECIFICALLY REQUESTING THAT IT BE RENOUNCED AS UNNECESSARY. MIYAZAWA, ACCORDING TO AKIHO, ZEPLIED THAT JAPAN NEEDED THE U.S. NUCLEAR UMBRELLA AND THAT JAPAN WAS MOVING TO RATIFY THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE REARMAMENT. MIYAZAWA REPORTEDLY SAID THAT A TREATY WITH THE SOVIET UNION ALONG THE LINES PROPOSED BY GROMYKO COULD ONLY BE DISCUSSED AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF A PEACE TREATY WHICH SETTLED THE TERRITORIAL QUESTION.

3. CONCERNING RECENT BILATERAL TALKS ON FISHERIES MATTERS, AKIHO SAID THAT THE HEAD OF THE JAPANESE FISHERIES AGENCY, UCHIMURA, HAD BEEN IN MOSCOW FOR TALKS ON COOPERATION ON FISH HATCHERIES AND RESTOCKING, ON THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE IN GENEVA (PARTICULARLY
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CONCERNING POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO JAPAN IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE), AND ON A FISHERIES CONVENTION CONCERNING AREAS AROUND THE JAPANESE ISLANDS. THE PROBLEMS OF JAPANESE FISHERMEN NEAR THE SOVIET-CONTROLLED ISLANDS HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED DURING THESE TALKS, NOR DURING MIYAZAWA'S VISIT. AKIHO SAID THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR TROYANOVSKY HAD RESPONDED TO AN OFFICIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT ORAL PROTEST ON FISHING INCIDENTS BY SAYING THAT A "HANDFUL" OF JAPANESE JOURNALISTS WERE EXAGGERATING THE FISHING INCIDENTS

AND THIS WAS NOT HELPFUL TO SOVIET-JAPANESE RELATIONS.
ACCORDING TO AKIHO, TROYANOVSKY DID NOT COMMENT ON THE
REPORTED INCIDENTS THEMSELEVES.

4. IN CONCLUSION AKIHO SAID THAT A NUMBER OF POLITICAL
OBSERVERS IN JAPAN ARGUE FOR EQUIDISTANCE IN JAPAN'S
RELATIONS WITH CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION. BUT THE
TREATY WITH CHINA WILL SOON BE CONCLUDED, HE SAID, AND
THIS WILL BE A MAJOR SETBACK TO SOVIET DIPLOMACY WITH
JAPAN. SINO-SOVIET RIVALRY, HE SAID, CASTS A LONG
SHADOW OVER ALL OTHER DEALING WHICH EACH SIDE HAS.
JAPAN CANNOT ESCAPE THIS PROBLEM DESPITE ITS EFFORTS TO
DEAL SEPARATELY AND EQUITABLY WITH BOTH. UNFORTUNATELY
FOR THE STATE OF SOVIET-JAPAN RELATIONS, THOSE WHO
CONTROL POLICY IN MOSCOW ARE STILL "COLD WARRIORS," SAID
AKIHO, AND HE MENTIONED KOVALENKO, THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
DESK MAN WHO DEALS WITH JAPAN, AS A KEY EXAMPLE.
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